

Claims 13, 16, 18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. patent No. 6312419. These claims have been cancelled.

Claims 8-12 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the office action. They have been so rewritten and are believed to be patentable.

Claim 26 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 26 has been so rewritten.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2002.

  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Maxie A. DUREL-CRAIN

DATE: July 19, 2002

SERIAL NO.: 09/975,747

GROUP ART UNIT: 3761

FILED: 10/11/2001

EXAMINER: Ruhl, Dennis William

FOR: "Tampon String Accessory Apparatus"

REC'D - 5/2002

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: P01269US (98151.1P2)

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**Copy of Amendments Showing Changes**

The application has been amended in the foregoing amendment to read as follows (added matter is underlined and omitted matter is in brackets):

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows (added matter is underlined and omitted matter is in brackets):

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice.

-- 8. (amended) Apparatus including:

a tampon having a tampon string, the tampon string having a first end attached to [a] the tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon; and

an attachment for the tampon string, [the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon,] the attachment comprising a tampon extension string having an accessory secured thereto, the attachment being securable to the free end of the tampon string, the accessory providing a means for locating the free end of the tampon string and/or for preventing the free end of the tampon string from being retracted into the vagina of a user of the tampon.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tab comprising a length of tape secured around an end of the tampon extension string .

10. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tassel secured to the extension string.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a soft, hollow, spherical

body having a polar axis and which is collapsible upon axial compression along its polar axis.

12. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tab comprising a length of tape secured around an end of the tampon extension string, and the tab comprises a peel-off backing which, when removed, exposes a sticky surface. --

Please cancel claims 13-19 without prejudice.

-- 20. (amended) Apparatus comprising:

a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a length of [3" to 15" (7.6-38.1 cm)] 9" to 13".--

Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice.

-- 22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the tampon string has a length of 11" to 12.5" (27.9-31.8 cm).

23. (amended) Apparatus comprising:

a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a width of [1/8" to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (.32-1.3cm)]  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".--

Please cancel claims 24 and 25 without prejudice.

-- 26. (Twice Amended) Apparatus comprising: [The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising]

a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a width of 1/8" to  $\frac{1}{2}$ "; and

an accessory attached adjacent the free end of the tampon string. --

Please cancel claims 27 and 28 without prejudice.

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